

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PER-01 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 MMO-01 A-01

SCA-01 /052 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MHMAUGHAN:DPW

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

S/CPR:MCKEATING (SUBS)

PER/CA/FS'T&R:BGROVES (SUBS)

L/M:HFSHAMWELL (SUBS)

----- 094735

R 220235Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, APER, , US, SY

SUBJECT:SARG DECISION TO ELIMINATE ASSISTANT ATTACHE TITLE

REF: (A.) DAMASCUS 229; (B) DAMASCUS 250

1. NOTWITHSTANDING SARG STATEMENT QUOTED REF B., TITLE OF ASSISTANT ATTACHE IS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS VALID DIPLOMATIC TITLE. (THERE ARE A FEW "ASSISTANT ATTACHES" ACCREDITED TO WASHINGTON, BUT NOT FROM SYRIA.) SOLE ALTERNATIVE TO THIS TITLE IN CASE OF NON-COMMISSIONED EMBASSY PERSONNEL WOULD BE TITLE OF ATTACHE.

2. IN LIGHT OF SARG DECISION, DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT STATUS OF PERSONNEL PRESENTLY HOLDING ASSISTANT ATTACHE TITLE. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IN ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC TITLE, THEY WILL NOT BE GRANTED DIP-

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LOMATIC ID CARDS, EVEN THOUGH THEY HOLD DIPLOMATIC PASS-

PORTS; AND THAT IF THEY HOLD DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, THEY WILL NOT BE GRANTED ANY OTHER FORM OF ID. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION WHETHER THIS IS IN FACT THE CASE.

3. POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO SUCH CATCH 22 COULD BE TO ISSUE OFFICIAL PASSPORTS, DESPITE ELIGIBILITY OF AFFECTED PERSONNEL UNDER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS TO HOLD DIPLOMATIC

PASSPORTS. REQUEST EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON EFFECT OF SUCH A MOVE ON STAFF PERSONNEL'S SAFETY, MORALE, AND JOB EFFECTIVENESS. ALSO, WOULD SARG THEN ISSUE APPROPRIATE ID CARDS? SUGGESTIONS AS TO OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS ALSO WELCOME.

4. YOU MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO COMPARE POSSIBLE NEW STATUS OF US PERSONNEL, IF REMOVED FROM DIPLOMATIC LIST, WITH CURRENT STATUS OF SARG WASHINGTON EMBASSY'S TWO SECRETARIAL PERSONNEL ON "WHITE LIST" (LIST SHOWING NON-DIPLOMATIC EMBASSY PERSONNEL). PRIVILEGES, SUBJECT TO PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY, ARE AS FOLLOWS: FULL IMMUNITY FROM ARREST; EXEMPTION FROM MD., VA., AND D.C. SALES TAX, FEDERAL TELEPHONE TAX, PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX (VA.), FEDERAL GAS TAX (THOUGH NOT D.C. GAS TAX); FREE AUTO REGISTRATION AND PLATES; AND FREE DRIVER'S PERMIT (D.C.). THERE ARE NO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS (SECRETARIES HOLD A2 VISAS). WHITE LIST PERSONNEL STATIONED IN WASHINGTON MAY IMPORT PERSONAL HHE AND ONE AUTO WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF ARRIVAL.

5. THOUGH SYRIA IS NOT A PARTY TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHICH CONTAINS PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY, THIS PRINCIPLE IS AN ACCEPTED STANDARD OF INTERNATIONAL COMITY AND MAY PROVE TO BE BASIS OF USEFUL APPROACH TO SARG. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC TITLES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, APER, PDIP, SY, US  
**To:** DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
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